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NEWS

Winchester volunteers clear debris blocking Wedge Pond water flow

WILL DOWD | STAFF WRITER

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Conservation Commission members and Friends of Wedge Pond volunteers pull a tangled mass of garbage and natural debris onto the shoreline. The blockage extended several feet into the water. COURTESY PHOTO / MATT GORDON

Winchester Conservation Commission members and Friends of Wedge Pond volunteers recently worked together to remove a large pile of debris

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and garbage that had been clogging the entry where Horn Pond Brook flows into Wedge Pond.

The team removed hundreds of pounds of debris using ropes, grappling hooks and muscle power, pulling the materials onto shore for disposal in a container provided by Winchester Department of Public Works. The blockage had been impeding water flow, fish migration and causing heavy silt buildup at the entry point.

Volunteers use ropes and grappling hooks to haul debris from the mouth of Horn Pond Brook into Wedge Pond during Saturday's cleanup. COURTESY PHOTO / BILL BAND

"This unsightly and unhealthy material impedes water flow, fish migration and generally leads to the entry being heavily silted up," wrote Select Board member Paras Bhayani in an email.

The work represents the latest phase in ongoing restoration efforts at Wedge Pond that have gained significant momentum through vo participation and substantial financial backing.

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Friends of Wedge Pond donated $9,000 to Winchester in February specifically to fund treatments addressing lake weeds and excessive lily pads, along with additional water quality testing recommended by the town's pond management vendor.

State legislators secured even more substantial support in July when they announced $150,000 in the fiscal year 2026 budget for environmental remediation and improvements at Wedge Pond. State Rep. Michael Day filed the amendment with support from Rep. Michelle Ciccolo in the House and Sen. Jason Lewis in the Senate.

Field assessments conducted by Water & Wetland LLC in May documented both challenges and progress at the pond. The survey identified seven aquatic plant species, including curly-leaf pondweed, an invasive species found scattered throughout the pond in varying densities. Water quality measurements showed healthy dissolved oxygen levels at 8.70 mg/L and good water clarity with 6 feet 1 inch visibility.

The Conservation Commission has established a three-year objective to restore habitat at Wedge Pond, including plans to reopen the Borggaard Beach area to the public.

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Conservation Commission members and Friends of Wedge Pond volunteers pull a tangled mass of garbage and natural debris onto the shoreline. The blockage extended several feet into the water. COURTESY PHOTO / MATT GORDON

Matt Gordon, president of Friends of Wedge Pond, said the group's goals include renovating the playground area at the beach and improving water quality through algae and lake weed control.

Previous volunteer efforts have focused on removing invasive plants and trash at multiple locations including Borggaard Beach, the Lake Street Bridge and Eliot Park areas. A May cleanup event brought together members from Friends of Wedge Pond, Winchester Tennis Association, Select Board, Sustainable Winchester, Winchester Cultural District, Boy Scout Troop 507 and many other residents, along with Winchester High School students working on biology class projects.

The ongoing volunteer work has produced noticeable improvements in the vista across the pond and general water health, according to org
Invasive species like buckthorn, which can grow up to 20 feet in d

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thickets and block native plants, have been targeted for removal along Palmer Street and other pond areas.

Residents interested in joining future volunteer efforts can contact Friends of Wedge Pond president Matt Gordon at matthewjgordon@yahoo.com.

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Public safety data How Winchester compares on firearms licenses in comparable Massachusetts communities Active licenses as of Jan. 25, 2025 — Source: Massachusetts Criminal History Systems Board License to carry firearms Firearms identification card Winchester and Marblehead are the focus communities. Peers selected based on comparable population size, demographics and suburban

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The following was submitted by the Office of Sen. Jason Lewis: State Sen. Jason Lewis joined his colleagues in the Massachusetts Senate to pass legislation that protects residents from discrimination in the housing market as the Trump administration abandons its enforcement of the federal Fair Housing Act. Illegal discrimination continues

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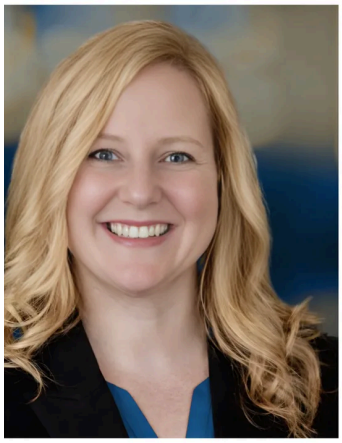

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FEATURES

'Chicago: Teen Edition' dances onto the Winchester High School stage

By Talia Ho | Correspondent Fame. Fortune. And all that jazz. This spring, Winchester High School presents "Chicago: Teen Edition," a bold musical that explores celebrity culture, media manipulation, and the cost of ambition. Set in the 1920s, this iconic production is sure to leave the audience wanting more. Performances will

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Ripley Chapel in Winchester presents 'Syldason: You Are Welcome Here'

The following was submitted by the Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church: On

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Friday, March 13, beginning at 7:30 p.m., live in-person and live streamed from the stunning Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church, Winchester, 21 Church St., join in with Syldason, a duo concert featuring Sylvie Zakarian,

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his colleagues in the House of Representatives recently passed energy affordability legislation that would result in over $9 billion in savings for utility ratepayers over the next 10 years. The bill maintains critical

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